

In The Claims

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Please amend the claims as follows:

1-33 (Cancelled)

34. (New) A device for controlled local delivery of rifaximin comprising rifaximicin and a bi-phasic material, said bi-phasic material consisting of a solid and elastic polymeric matrix and of interstitial water filling up the pores of said matrix.
35. (New) A device as claimed in claim 34 wherein the weight ratio between the water and the polymeric matrix is up to 10.
36. (New) A device as claimed in claim 34 said polymeric matrix comprises a polymer selected from the group consisting of polysaccharides, cellulose derivatives, alkyl-cellulose, hydroxyalkyl-cellulose and polyacrylates.
37. (New) A device as claimed in claim 34 wherein said polymeric matrix comprises polyvinylalcohol.
38. (New) A device as claimed in claim 37 wherein said polymeric matrix further comprises an acrylic polymer.
39. (New) A device as claimed in claim 38 containing between 0.5 wt% and 30 wt% of rifaximin, 10 wt% of polyvinylalcohol and between 0.2 wt% and 20 wt% of acrylic polymer.
40. (New) A device as claimed in claim 37 further comprising a bio-adhesive polymer.
41. (New) A device as claimed in claim 40 wherein said bio-adhesive polymer is selected from the group consisting of hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, alginates, carboxymethylcellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose and acrylic polymers.

42. (New) A device as claimed in claim 40 wherein said bio-adhesive polymer is homogeneously mixed into the polymeric matrix.
43. (New) A device as claimed in claim 40 wherein said bio-adhesive polymer is applied to the surface of the polymeric matrix.
44. (New) A device as claimed in claim 34 in the form of a film.
45. (New) A device as claimed in claim 34 containing in combination with rifaximin also other antibiotics and/or antiinflammatory and/or pain relief and/or anesthetic drugs.
46. (New) Method for the delivery of rifaximin in the oral cavity that comprises utilizing the device of claim 40.
47. (New) Process for the preparation of a device according to claim 38 comprising the following steps:
- a) polyvinylalcohol, an acrylic polymer, rifaximin and, optionally a bioadhesive polymer are dissolved in water;
 - b) a divalent salt is added to the solution of step a)
48. (New) Process as claimed in claim 47 wherein said divalent salt is calcium chloride.
49. (New) Process as claimed in claim 47 wherein said divalent salt is added at a concentration of up to 2 wt%.
50. (New) Process as claimed in claim 47 wherein the solution of the step a) contains 10 wt% of polyvinylalcohol, between 0.2 wt% and 20 wt% of acrylic polymer and between 0.5 wt% and 30 wt% of rifaximin.